



Representative
Gigi Talcott

Committees:

- Education,
Ranking Republican
- Appropriations

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28th DISTRICT SURVEY

Serving DuPont, Fircrest, Lakewood, Steilacoom, Tillicum, University
Place, West Tacoma, and Anderson, Ketron and McNeil islands

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for taking time to begin reading this newsletter. I hope you can take an extra few minutes to **send me an idea or two of your own** along with this short survey. As I can feel the frost while walking my dog each morning, I know it's time to work on problem-solving for the 2004 Legislature. Since common-sense solutions often come from friends like you at home, I'm eager to hear from you.

My top priority next year will be **preserving and creating jobs**. Highly capable leaders in business, labor and government joined together to form a Washington Competitiveness Council. They developed a list of legislative changes needed to rebuild a healthy economy in our state. I'm happy to report we made several positive changes this year. Unfortunately, many of the needed changes failed to pass both the House and the Senate. I believe it's time to move beyond partisan politics so we can preserve jobs and create new ones. Every vital state service is paid for through taxes collected from individuals and job providers.

Progress on education issues is encouraging. The four caucus leads for the state (two Senators, one Chairman and I) are meeting regularly with the governor's office to work out our differences. **Resolving differences** in the Legislature can often be contentious. I'm confident, with sound guiding principles, the willingness to consider new solutions and the commitment of time, we can do the job. I believe that by January 12 we'll be ready to present proposals to the full Legislature.

On a more personal note, **thank you** for all the caring cards, calls, letters and e-mails you've sent following my mother's death. Her zeal and your support inspires me to continue serving in the Legislature. Your support touched my heart. Thank you!

Call me at home anytime, 564-9779. Remember that once the Legislature begins in January I'll be working long days and late nights, so Colleen Morse (360-786-7890) will hand me your messages or you can use the free "hotline" **1-800-562-6000**. Our Bridgeport office will close while Rep. Mike Carrell and I are in Olympia full time. We'll bring the computer back and open up the office once the Legislature finishes its work.

Gratefully,


Gigi Talcott
State Representative

Gigi Talcott
Representative
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Olympia, WA 98504-0600



Please
place
stamp
here



28th DISTRICT SURVEY

Creating jobs and energizing the economy

1. The Washington Competitiveness Council was created to examine the state’s ability to compete worldwide and develop recommendations to preserve and create jobs in our state. Please rank the following proposals in the order you believe are most important to encourage job growth, starting with a 1 for your top priority.
- ___

 Protect existing tax exemptions
- ___

 Avoid general tax increases
- ___

 Make the state regulatory system less costly and cumbersome
- ___

 Increase accountability in the agency rule-making process
- ___

 Develop strategy to ensure availability of low-cost and reliable electricity
- ___

 Improve transportation infrastructure
- ___

 Strengthen the state’s investment in K-12 and higher education
- ___

 Have independent performance audits of taxpayer-funded programs

Improving Washington’s student assessment system

2. I’ve worked on legislation that requires schools to work with parents to develop individual education plans for students who have not met the state reading and writing standards beginning in the fourth grade. Do you think this will be
- ___

 helpful to students and parents or
- ___

 just more unnecessary paperwork for teachers?

Comments: _____



Rep. Talcott confers with Rep. Glenn Anderson, the House Republican Floor Leader.

Teacher strikes

3. The Marysville teachers’ walkout delayed the opening of school for 11,000 students for nearly seven weeks. While state law prevents strikes by some public employees, such as police and firefighters, the legality of teacher strikes is unclear.
- a. Would you ___ support or ___ oppose legislation to prohibit strikes by educational employees?
- b. Would you ___ support or ___ oppose legislation to make public school contract negotiations part of the government’s open meetings act, allowing citizens to observe the ongoing negotiations?

Other ideas: _____

Dealing with state government

4. Have you or someone you know been directly affected by state government recently in either a positive or negative way? Please share your experience.

To send in your advice, please remove this page, fold it so the return-mail panel shows, tape it closed, put a stamp on it and mail it.

Election-year restrictions

As your legislator, I work to keep you up-to-date on what’s happening in Olympia. However, 2004 is an election year. Under the provisions of Initiative 134, I’m only allowed two mailings after Nov. 30, 2003.

I encourage you to call, write or email me whenever you have advice or a question. The initiative **does allow** me to respond to your direct requests for information.

I am always glad to hear from you.

Gigi



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